

In attacks on transport and other targets on the ground he has achieved much success, while in air combat he has destroyed 1 enemy aircraft. Flying Officer Crawford is a most able section leader, whose skill and keenness had proved inspiring.

Flying Officer Owen Leslie HARDY (N.Z.411399), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 72 Squadron.

This officer has completed 70 sorties, including a number in the campaign in North Africa, where he has rendered excellent service. In air combat he has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft, while in low level machine gun attacks on enemy transport he has achieved success. Flying Officer Hardy is a keen and skilful section leader.

Flying Officer Edward John HOLLOWAY (116709), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 18 Squadron.

This officer is a keen and determined pilot, whose skill has won the confidence of all with whom he has flown. At the commencement of the campaign in North Africa he took part in several daylight bombing sorties and his steadfastness in the face of considerable opposition proved inspiring. On one occasion, in December, 1942, he skilfully force-landed his aircraft which had been set on fire when attacked by a superior number of enemy fighters. Since then, every sortie he has undertaken has been highly successful.

Flying Officer Jerrold LE CHEMINANT (126148), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 72 Squadron.

This officer has a fine operational record. He fought in the Battle of Britain and afterwards took part in many sorties over Northern France. In operations in North Africa he has proved himself to be an excellent section leader and has contributed materially to the successes obtained. He has destroyed 6 enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Evan Dall MACKIE (N.Z.41520), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 243 Squadron.

In operations in North Africa, this officer has displayed skilful leadership and great tenacity. He has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft, 4 of them within a period of eleven days in April, 1943. His courageous example has proved inspiring.

Flying Officer Kenneth Percival NEILL (N.Z.41145), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 225 Squadron.

This officer has undertaken many operational flights during the campaign in North Africa. He has displayed great skill, courage and determination, achieving excellent results. On one occasion, he undertook an important sortie which necessitated several runs over the target to obtain the desired results. In the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire Flying Officer Neill displayed great skill and coolness and completed his task successfully.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer James Dobie AITCHISON (134337), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 150 Squadron (since deceased).

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.133390 Sergeant John Campbell LECKIE, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 150 Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, Pilot Officer Aitchison and Sergeant Leckie were navigator and pilot of an aircraft detailed to bomb an enemy airfield. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One engine was disabled, the hydraulic systems were rendered unserviceable, while a serious leakage of petrol occurred. Despite this, Sergeant Leckie attempted to fly the aircraft to a landing ground, being greatly assisted by Pilot Officer Aitchison. It was impossible to maintain height, however, and Sergeant Leckie gave orders to abandon aircraft but, by the time the other members of the crew had left by parachute, it was too late for him to follow. Nevertheless, he succeeded in effecting a crash-landing, in a battle area. Pilot Officer Aitchison, who had descended safely, immediately rushed to his comrade's assistance. Although under enemy fire, they took steps to prevent the crashed aircraft from falling into enemy hands. Both these members of aircraft crew displayed great courage and determination in harassing circumstances.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.101822 Flight Sergeant Edmond Anthony HINKE, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 142 Squadron.

This airman has taken part in 32 sorties. He is a cool and efficient air gunner, whose excellent work

has on occasions contributed to the safe return of his aircraft. His steadiness has set an excellent example.

1373373 Sergeant Francis CAMPBELL, No. 93 Squadron.

This airman has taken part in 105 sorties. In the campaign in North Africa he has participated in many attacks on enemy transport causing destruction. In air combat Sergeant Campbell has destroyed two enemy aircraft. He has displayed commendable skill and courage.

1386074 Sergeant Leslie William EVANS, No. 142 Squadron.

Sergeant Evans has completed 24 sorties. He is an excellent captain, whose efficiency and confidence have inspired his crew, resulting in a fine record of successful sorties. He has displayed outstanding devotion to duty.

1332018 Sergeant Alan Joseph OWEN, No. 600 Squadron.

1073644 Sergeant James Samuel Victor MCALLISTER, No. 600 Squadron.

As pilot and observer of aircraft respectively, these airmen have displayed great skill. They have destroyed three enemy aircraft at night.

*Air Ministry, 21st May, 1943.*

#### ROYAL AIR FORCE.

##### GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Gp. Capt. (temp.) W. A. B. BOWEN-BUSCARLET, D.F.C., is granted the rank of Gp. Capt. (war subs.). 19th Nov. 1942.

Flg. Offs. to be Flt. Lts. (war subs.):—

H. B. GRAY, A.F.M. (44061). 1st Apr. 1942.

P. GARRARD, D.F.C. (44191). 21st July 1942.

T. D. BOYCE (2nd Lt. R.E.) (44538). 9th Sept. 1942.

27th Sept. 1942.

B. B. CALLICK (44977).

R. R. LAMB (44974).

G. G. TAYLOR (44975).

E. RICHARDSON, D.F.C. (45464). 19th Oct. 1942.

P. N. KINGWILL (44829). 21st Oct. 1942. (Seny. 9th May 1942).

S. P. WILKINS (33496). 22nd Dec. 1942.

A. R. WALL (Capt. R.I.A.S.C.) (47303). 4th Jan. 1943.

D. V. H. THOMAS (45201). 10th Jan. 1943. (Seny. 23rd Sept. 1942.)

P. E. L. HALLS (45235). 3rd Feb. 1943. (Seny. 22nd Jan. 1943.)

E. E. BROWN, D.F.C. (45466). 8th Feb. 1943. (Seny. 27th Jan. 1943.)

F. ROTHWELL (Lt. Lanc. Fus.) (45337). 15th Feb. 1943.

H. J. HOUGHTON, D.F.C. (45301). 16th Feb. 1943. (Seny. 29th Jan. 1943.)

N. S. PETCH (45357). 25th Feb. 1943. (Seny. 5th Feb. 1943.)

1st Apr. 1943.

C. GRAYSON (46769).

R. G. ROBERTSON (46301).

K. W. PENDREY (49145). 4th Apr. 1943.

E. A. DEVERILL, D.F.C., D.F.M. (45546). 8th Apr. 1943. (Seny. 2nd Apr. 1943.)

17th Apr. 1943.

R. Y. POWELL, D.F.C. (45714).

G. M. L. CADENNE (45547). (Seny. 9th Apr. 1943.)

C. E. VINCE, D.F.M. (46082). 21st Apr. 1943. (Seny. 16th Apr. 1943.)

W. S. JENKINS (45650). 24th Apr. 1943. (Seny. 16th Apr. 1943.)

L. H. MOULTON, D.F.C. (45805). 26th Apr. 1943.

W. TEARE (45755). 27th Apr. 1943.

Plt. Offs. to be Flg. Offs. (war subs.):—

J. M. REED (10th/10th Baluch R., I.A.) (48911). 1st Oct. 1942.

D. G. LEADER-WILLIAMS (21350). 24th Apr. 1943.

Plt. Offs. (prob.) to be Flg. Offs. on prob. (war subs.):—

1st Oct. 1942.

C. E. CASBOLT, D.F.M. (47700).

A. R. MAYELL (46794).

A. E. C. OAKSHOTT (51505). 30th Nov. 1942.

G. WOLLERTON (49754). 2nd Feb. 1943.